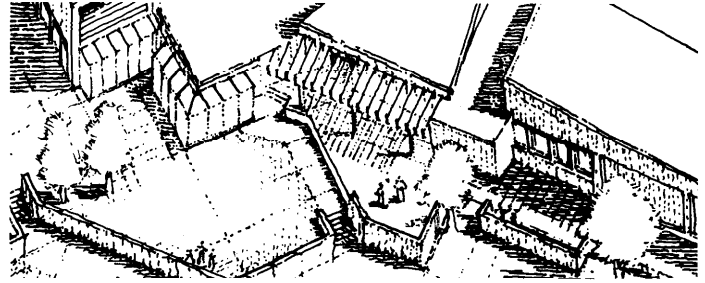


## 6 – 7



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# Fort Caribe: Community Activity and Bowling Center

### a. Post Situation and Population

**(1) Surrounding Context.** Fort Caribe is located on the fringe of a metropolitan area, in a semitropical environment. Although the urban center is barely twenty minutes away, its facilities provide only minor service to the post population, because of social and interest differences. The terrain is generally flat, with minor hills around the post. The vegetation is lush. The climate is moderate, with constant warm temperatures and high humidity, and frequent rain-showers.

**(2) Post Mission and Population.** The post mission is one of readiness: support to the National Guard, equipment maintenance, supply warehousing and recruitment. It is a small post with 800 military personnel, including 360 families, housed on post. A high proportion of dependent children, roughly 700, brings the total post population over 1800. Fort Caribe's facilities also serve a substantial population of National Guardsmen, Army reserves, and retired military personnel in the area.

**(3) Geography.** The layout of Fort Caribe is compact and well organized (see figure 6 - 38). The main road enters the post at the northwest edge and passes the major operations area on the left, before coming to the post administration headquarters at the geographic center of the post. Extensive family housing areas, including elementary and high schools, encompass a continuous band along the southern rim of the post. Troop housing is clearly separated, in one area across the road from the post headquarters and near the operations area. A complex of post exchange, commissary, general education center with library, and chapel exists to the west of the post headquarters. An officers' club, joint enlisted men's/NCO club, movie theatre, outdoor multiple sports courts, and nine-hole golf course are to the east of the headquarters.

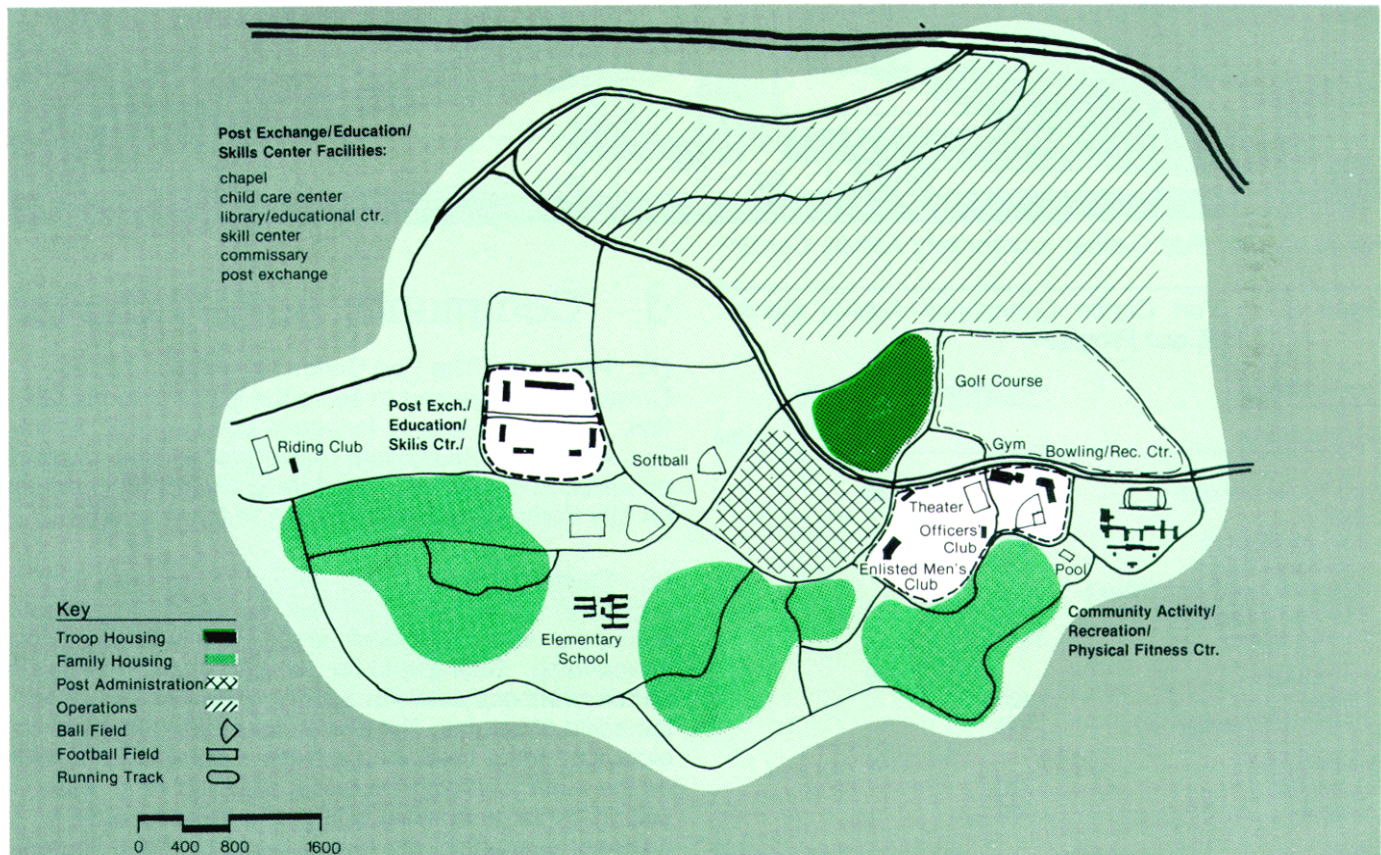


Figure 6 – 38 Fort Caribe: Community Framework Plan

## b. Existing Programs and Facilities

The MSA and community programs at Fort Caribe operate in severely limited facilities. The golf course is well maintained and there is a riding club with arena and stables, but there is no gymnasium. There is a small weight lifting room and a karate club in "found" space, some softball fields, multipurpose basketball and racquetball courts. Arts and crafts as well as youth activities occupy inadequate buildings converted from other functions, located near the post exchange. The library and general education center are in the same complex. There is no child care at present. The officers' club is large and recently constructed. The joint enlisted men's/NCO club is adequate.

## c. Community Framework

The Community Framework plan for Fort Caribe (figure 6 - 38) projects a full, self-sustaining program of community services and facilities for the installation. It is organized into two main centers of activity, a community activity/recreation/physical fitness center that is east of the post headquarters, and a post exchange/education/skills center on the west. Ideally, all these functions should be located in one complex for a post this size. However, this

layout is constrained by existing facility locations, master-plan intentions, and the limited space available.

The MSA and community facilities are planned to provide a combined troop and family oriented program. No facilities are dedicated for only one or the other group. Because of the small size of the post, and the small single soldier population, this combination is expected to be quite workable by time-scheduling specific activities as needed.

The community activity/recreation/physical fitness center is located near the existing sports and social facilities, adjacent to the golf course and high school. A Community Activity Center with extensive social activity and multipurpose meeting spaces and a bowling center is planned in the vicinity of existing clubs and theaters. Also planned nearby is a future gymnasium, additional playing fields and courts. This complex is intended to provide social recreation, athletic, and minor music and drama production activities for the entire post population, including youth activities.

The separate post exchange/education/skills center contributes to the existing complex of post exchange, chapel, and general education center/library. It replaces the other older buildings in this area with a new commissary, a bank, a child care center, and a new skill development center, with complete facilities for multiple art and auto crafts.

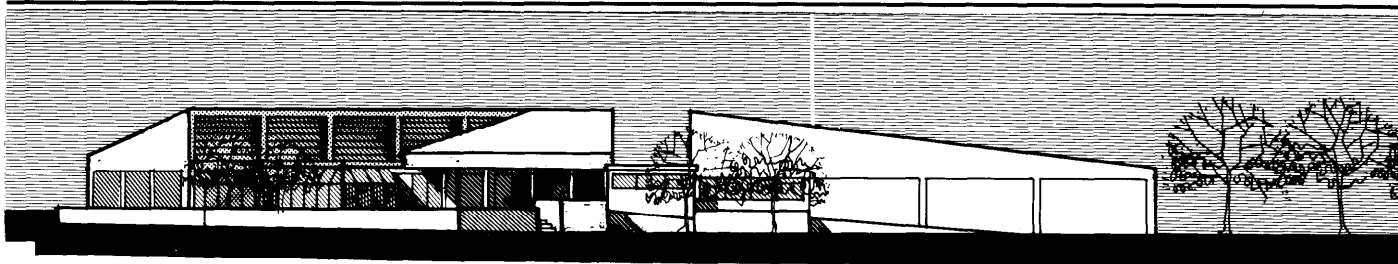


Figure 6 - 39 Fort Caribe: Community Activity Center-

Table 6 - 9 Fort Caribe Community Activity Center: Space Program

Function-Space	Area (Gross Square Feet)	
Social Activities		8,580
Small Group Activities	6740	
· Games	1860	
· Electronic Games	400	
· Television Lounge	720	
· Open Multipurpose (with "Stage")	1300	
· Enclosed Multipurpose	980	
· Meeting Rooms	1480	
Administration	740	
· Offices	420	
· Control and Storage	320	
Refreshment	1100	
· Snack Bar	780	
· Kitchen	320	
Bowling		3,400
General Support		1,120
Toilets	320	
Maintenance/Storage/Mechanical	800	
	Total	13,100

## d. Community Activity Center

**(1) Program.** The Fort Caribe Community Activity Center is programmed to serve the entire post population. It provides spaces for social activities and recreation, small scale music and drama productions, exercise activities, and bowling. The detailed functional program for this Community Activity Center is found in table 6 - 9.

**(2) Design Solution.** The design solution is a tightly organized building with open activity spaces and circulation at the center, and enclosed special function spaces surrounding. Changes in floor elevation and roof heights permit overlooks between activity areas and variety in the scale of spaces. The design takes advantage of an eight-foot grade change to provide a dominant presence on the main road with the social activities wing, while setting the large bowling facility at a lower level so it does not overwhelm the rest of the center (see figures 6-40 and 6-41).

The building is sited adjacent to the main post road, overlooking an existing softball field on the lower part of the site. Next to the Community Activity Center is the planned gymnasium, with grandstand and additional sports fields. Linking these is a terrace with views over the sports fields and the hollow beyond, which acts as the central focus for the community area. This terrace is directly accessible from the open multipurpose and games spaces of the Community Activity Center, and is designed for outdoor activities and performances.

The center consists of two wings joined by the entrance and open activity spaces. The dominant wing visible from the main road contains the enclosed meeting and multipurpose spaces, television lounge, office and control. Next to this is the main entrance, which opens onto a series of spaces. The lobby, snack bar and general circulation, surround and overlook the games room and open multipurpose space at the lower level. Next to the open multipurpose space, with its high ceiling, the raised circulation area can double as a stage for small performances. Extending beyond the snack area is the other wing of the center, including the kitchen and support facilities, electronic games, and four lane bowling center at a lower level, which can be viewed from the spectator and lounge area above.

The Community Activity Center is designed to be built as a single story, concrete frame structure. High sloping roofs, with clerestory windows, define the three major building volumes - bowling, open multipurpose space, and meeting room wing - and provide indirect natural lighting. The building layout incorporating low perforated-block walls encourages natural cross-ventilation.



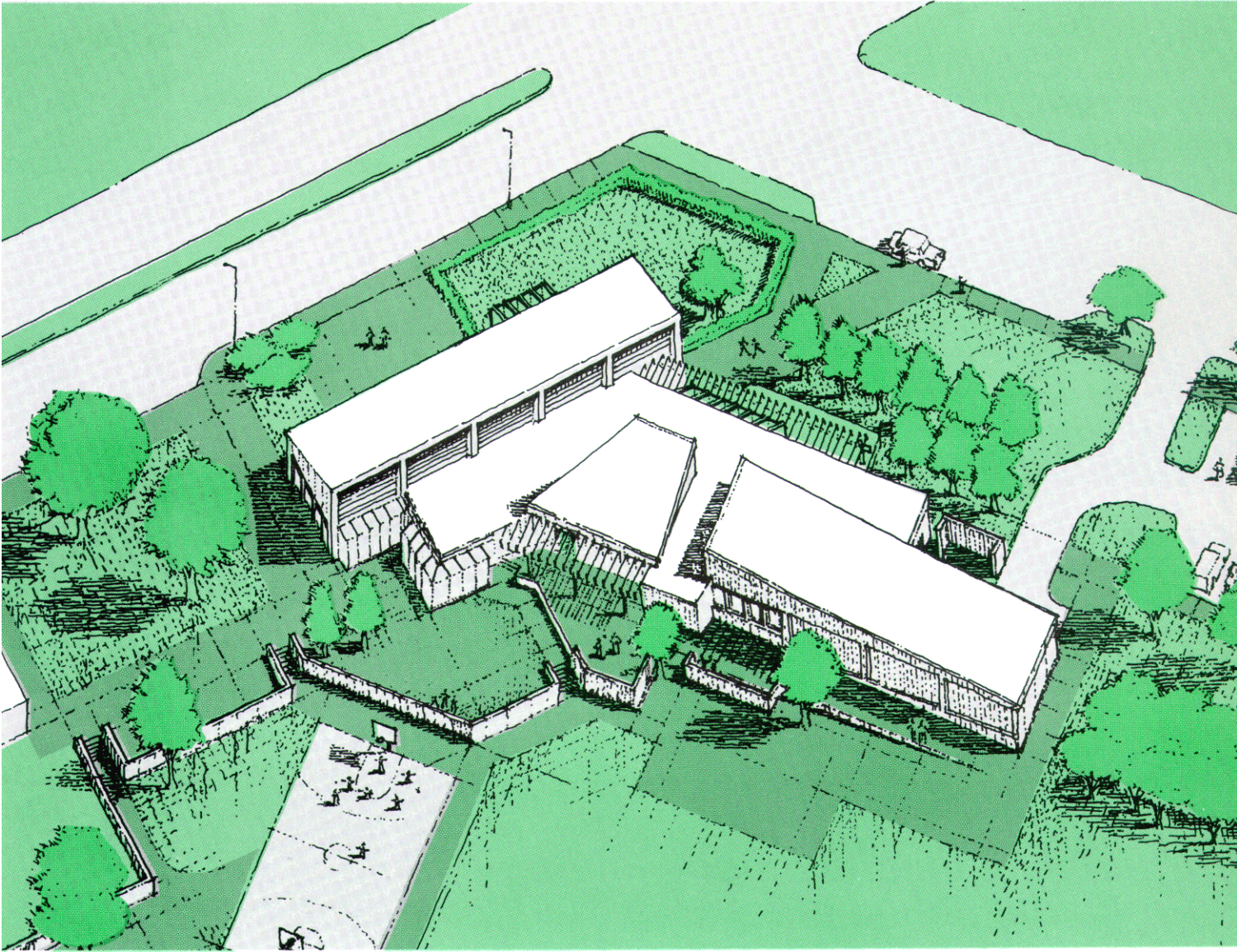


Figure 6-40 Fort Caribe Community Activity Center - Perspective

## Fort Caribe Community Activity Center

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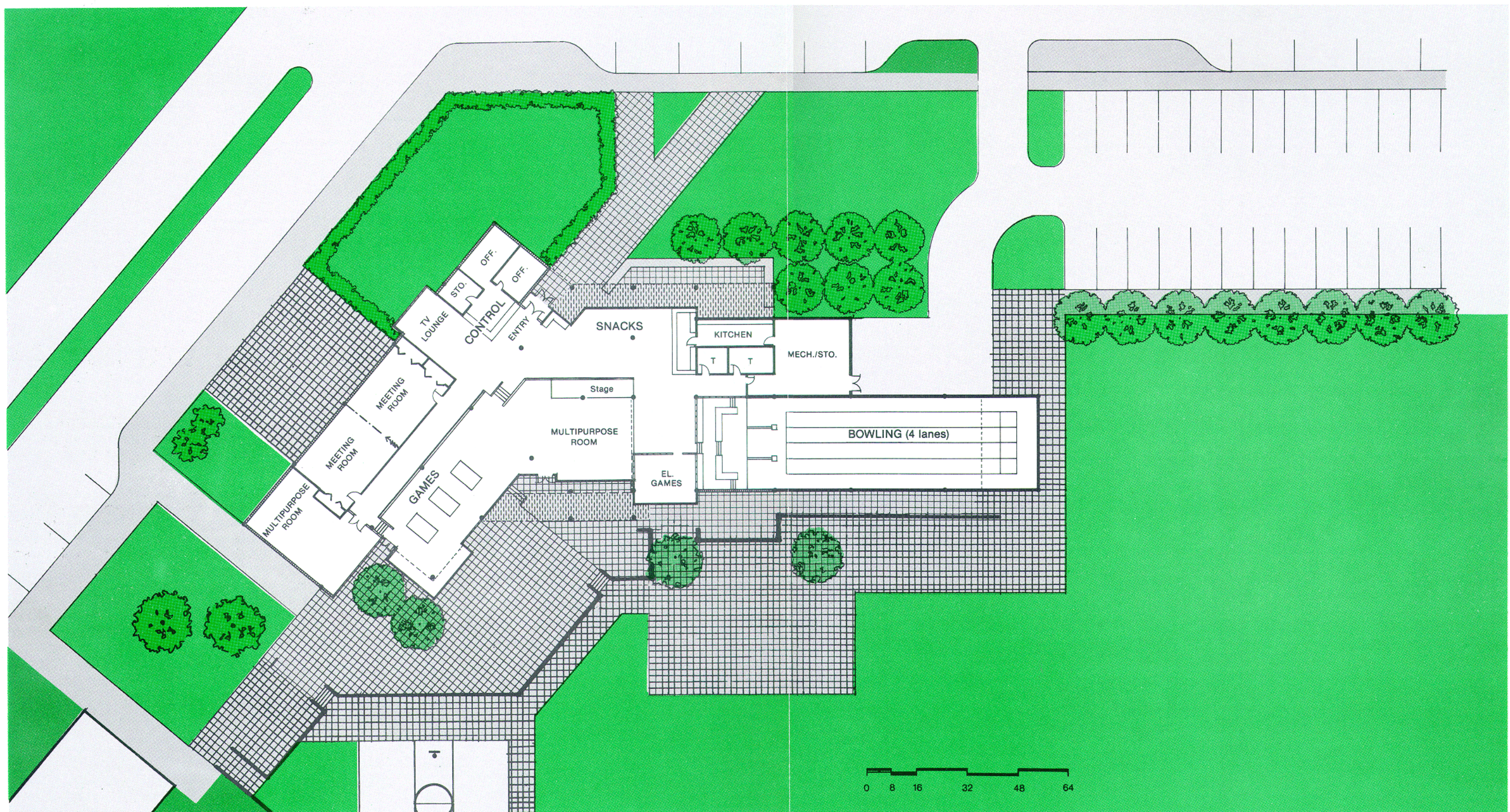


Figure 6 – 41 Fort Caribe: Community Activity Center-Plan